

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This communication is in response to the BPAI Decision mailed on 11 December 2009.
2. Claims 1-24 are currently pending. As a result of the BPAI Decision mailed 11 December 2009, claims 1-24 are allowed.

### ***Examiner Amendment***

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment, listed below, was given in a telephone interview with Gerald Smith (Reg. No. 27,009) on 22 February 2009.

#### **In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 13 and 21 as follows:

Claim 13. (currently amended) A method for evaluating the text content of a document database with respect to a population of documents comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a computer system having a user interface with a display;
- (b) forming one or more nets each comprising at least two nodes associated by at least one interaction, one or more said nodes representing an evaluation criteria, said one or more nets being viewable at said display;
- (c) treating said documents to have an attribute value and calculating for each document a geometric relative distance with respect to a said node criteria and

displaying corresponding document symbols at said display;

(d) delimiting at said display a first region of said document symbols;

(e) delimiting at said display a second region of said document symbols;

(f) selecting a said document attribute value to be correlated and the criteria for establishing an attribute value match;

(g) determining the presence of one or more document attribute value match pairs as correlations between said first and second regions; and

(h) displaying said correlations at said display.

Claim 21. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 in which:

said step (f) selects said document attribute value or document identification; and

said step (g) identifies the same document in each said first and second region as a said correlation.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Answer dated 23 January 2008, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based primarily on US Patent No 6,778,995 to Gallivan, US Patent No 7,085,755 to Bluhm et al and US PGPub 2005/0086283 to Nevin, III; claims 13-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based primarily on US Patent No 7,085,755 to Bluhm et al and US PGPub 2005/0086283 to Nevin, III; and claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based primarily on US PGPub 2004/0078366 to Crooks

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et al and US PGPub 2005/0086283 to Nevin, III.

The claimed invention is directed towards methods of carrying out text content searches of a document database utilizing multi-node nets.

As was decided in the BPAI Decision mailed 11 December 2009, the prior art of record, Gallivan, Bluhm, Nevin and Crooks, does not show, teach or suggest limitation of **for each document of said database, calculating its geometric relative distance from a said node to derive one or more node attractors** in combination with the other claimed features.

An updated search for prior art on the EAST database and on domains (NPL-Google and ACM) has been conducted. The prior art searched and investigated in the database and domains does not fairly teach or suggest the teaching of the claimed subject matter as described above and reflected by the combined elements in independent claims 1, 13 and 22. Dependent claims 2-12, 14-21, 23 and 24 are indicated as being allowable for the same reasons stated above in regards to the independent claims.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KIMBERLY LOVEL whose telephone number is (571)272-2750. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John R. Cottingham/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167

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Examiner  
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22 February 2010  
/KL/